

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 22, 2005, in the above-identified application. Enclosed herewith is a Petition requesting a three-month extension of time for resetting the deadline for responding to the Office Action from November 22, 2005, to and including February 22, 2006.

As an initial matter, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication the claim 12 contains allowable matter. Specifically, the Examiner objected to claim 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 12 therein, and have canceled claim 12.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4, 7-8 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,893,889 to Harrington. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 5-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrington in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,989,291 to Ralph, et al.

In view of the Examiner's indication that claim 12 contains allowable matter, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 12 therein. In view of the above-noted amendment, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is now allowable, and that claims 2-11 are allowable, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.


As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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